

KAROECHO Minutes June 10, 2019

Introductions

Present:

New Attendees:

Jim Woo, KN6CDQ (EC near Barrett) and KN6BVF David (Richmond)

KE6BEE, B. of D. member at large

K6KOP

KC6OBK

KJ6WSS

KK6ZPM

KJ6PPR

KK6GIO, Treas.

KK6NDF KEN 6 AC

KK6SWK

Larry Nagle KEN2 AC (ex: WA6MYG)

KJ6BHX

Meeting was called to order by KK6NDF, president at 1900 PDT

Minutes were approved by motion of KK6GIO and seconded by KK6ZPM.

KK6GIO, Larry, passed the proverbial hat amassing a small fortune

Treasurer's Report Larry, KK6GIO: 18 paid members- Total cash on hand \$482

Grant Writing (Led by Larry, KK6GIO)

No needed items were identified as being needed

Never-the-less a discussion on grant writing was pursued

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Larry proposed to outsource grant writing to a professional Grant Writer. Costs of a grant writer were discussed. .

A discussion of grant sources followed.

KJ6PPR, Davis, suggested who to apply for grants

Hal said that he would contact El Cerrito City Council, CERT, and the Fire Department for possible grantees.

Hal, stated that EC/Ken CERT received a substantial grant.

Hal said that LaMORinda CERT received a \$11 million

[Further research showed that this was not a grant to CERT] rather the Grant was for the LaMORinda FD.

Hal: Took up Don's suggestion to give EC/K business owners a chance to sponsor us.

Don's suggestion that El Cerrito Urgent Care on Moeser and San Pablo would like an

outdoor antenna installed was discussed. Don will move this forward..

Outreach/Membership

Karen, KK6ZPM, Chairperson of the Outreach

Made a comment on publishing a roster or not.

KK6ZPM, NI6A, KK6SWK, KJ6PPRS, increasing membership. Wants to increase membership at meetings and net.

We are just getting started. Karen wants input from the membership. Karen promises a progress report next month (July meeting). Please send Karen your input. Hal inserted that membership is a specific task apart from fund raising.

EC FD to do Mailing to all hams in EC/K

Hal: the FD has already agreed to do a mailing for KaroEcho hams.

The FD is planning a mailing to all residents for CERT recruitment. Don is writing a letter to all Hams in EC/K to be paid for by the FD.

Website:

Hal and Howdy: 501c3 of the website.

Non-profits get better standing with the website in many ways. .

It will save money, create backups, and offer many other benefits. Hal said that he would contact Rob, our web-admin and move this issue forward.

Controlled Burn

Hal: Announced that Lamorinda was going to coordinate a controlled burn and Polygon system test on June 26 and wants to know if KaroEcho wants to participate. Larry Nagle: Described the burn area. Karen suggested that Lamorinda GMRS repeater system might interface with our area someday.

Equipment Update: KE6BEE

No response from El Cerrito since last meeting regarding the installation of outdoor access to installed antennas at Harding and Tassajara Parks. (No investment involved – just permission to install outdoor access/patch boxes is being pursued.

Training:

KE6BEE reported on the GMRS/FRS Workshop run by KaroEcho at the Arlington Park Club House on June 4. 35 attendees, most from Richmond. Howdy discussed proving the concept we can then extend it to other locations as well as installing GMRS system integrating the idea of a message center that connects two or more communications systems.

Howdy stressed the importance of antennas. FRS is short range. Geoff Lomax explained the use of GMRS repeaters. Don presented the 3 tier system. Howdy gave a hands-on workshop exploring their radios.

The GMRS license is a no test license (\$10 years for life) for the whole family and extended family.

Howdy and Don have customized the FEMA module 9 (COMMUNICATIONS) for the DERT training program.

It was suggested that KaroEcho give handouts to the CERT class trainees. We have been doing this the past two CERT trainings.

FEMA Module 9 (Communications). Module 9 is not an encrypted framework. It is found on the FEMA site and many CERT areas have customized it. .

Jay, KJ6WSS presented a short promotion of GMRS as a step to ham radio.
30 GMRS Channels

KJ6WSS, attempted to describe 3 low cost projects he is working on.

1. A home owner contacted EBARC who wants 40' tower taken down with a 5el beam. He needs two helpers to take it down. No one wants it. Howdy volunteered to help. Hal wanted to know what is the use? Jay described a rope friction brake to remove towers.
2. The CCCC repeater Club's Repeater site. Past the Dam Road Park District (El Sobrante). He described plans to put the 4Cs repeater on solar power. It is located near the East Bay Water tank in El Sobrante (EBRPD property). Jay wants volunteers to help build the solar power system at the repeater site.

Part 3 was not presented.

Howdy, KE6BEE presented an excellent Table Top Exercise

Bulletins of Need (QSTS) are useful as priority messages to share resources. As long as CERT ICPs take inventory of their resources. Howdy described how to do this.

Roles: KE6BEE (Net Control Station)
The Use of Tactical designators

CERT area Communicators can announce their need

A directed net is absolutely needed. We need to nail that idea home. It has nothing to do with personal power; but rather efficiency; where chaos is the order of the day during disasters

without net discipline.

The tabletop exercise addressed bulletins/QSTs. How to share resources (human and material) between areas is of great value.

After CERT ACs take an inventory of their resources [of course none of the ACs in EC/KEN are told to do so—Don's quip]. They can take inventory via FRS, GMRS, or runners have a resource manager assigned to keep track.

Then when another Area needs a resource such can be shared inter-area
Another training area that needs attention is that stations do not know the difference between LISTING their traffic and SENDING their traffic.

The sequence is:

A station using a tactical callsign announces their need

A station volunteers their resource

NCS then moves both stations off frequency to arrange transport.

The table top exercise occurred on net frequency (the tabletop).

The following is from Don, (NI6A AEC 9asst emergency coordinator)

Formal examples:

EC9 voices: "EC9 with priority traffic" or simply "EC9".

NCS: "EC9 list your traffic"

EC9: "I need twelve cots and twenty blankets"

NCS: "All Stations, please copy EC9 needs twelve cots and twenty blankets, can anyone provide"?

KEN3: "KEN3 can do"

NCS: "KEN3 call EC9 on frequency. Establish contact and if good move EC9 to 146.745 to arrange transport"

KEN3: "EC9 do you copy?"

EC9: "KEN3 this is EC(good copy"

KEN3: "EC9 move to 146.475 to arrange transport"

EC9: "Roger, going"

KEN3: "Going"

A large problem arises when stations start to send their traffic before the NCS tells them. Some stations will interpret "go ahead" as permission to send traffic. As you rightly intended all traffic must first go through NCS, but more succinctly, all traffic must be directed by NCS.

When a station indicates "with priority traffic" or "with emergency traffic" or just drops their suffix, NCS should acknowledge them by asking them to LIST their traffic, rather than to voice, "go ahead with your traffic". In short do not list your traffic unless asked by NCS.

Only after being recognized will the NCS ask the operator to list. "I have a priority QST for the net" or "I have 1 emergency traffic for the EOC" or One priority for "El Cerrito High Shelter", etc. Then NCS will direct the traffic after the station is acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted, Don, ni6a